

CONFIDENTIAL

#12

EAST EUROPE BRANCH NOTES

12 Feb. 1974

YUGOSLAVIA

Yugoslav-Soviet Party Agreement

The Soviet and Yugoslav parties last week reached agreement on a two-year program of cooperation. Judging from Belgrade's agreements with other East European parties, the accord probably calls for increased consultations between party organs and expanded exchanges of party literature and party speakers. Gennadiy Kiselev, deputy head of the International Department of the Soviet party central committee, was in Belgrade during February 5-9 to negotiate the agreement.

This codification of increased contacts is one result of last November's Tito-Brezhnev talks in Kiev. Yugoslavia has, however, signed similar agreements with Pankow and Warsaw and has held discussions with Prague and Budapest.

25X1

Police "Attend" Philosophy Seminar

Last weekend, police interrupted a philosophy seminar attended by several of the dissident Belgrade University professors. They questioned participants, confiscated tape recordings of the proceedings, and reportedly detained and later searched the homes of five philosophy students at Belgrade University. This move appears as further evidence of the party's determination to increase pressure on the philosophy faculty to expel the eight controversial professors.

25X1

POLAND

Silence Is Golden

Widely split over the Solzhenitsyn case, Polish authorities and intellectuals apparently have called a truce and fallen largely mute on the subject. According to Antoni Slonimski, the elder statesman of Poland's literary world, the regime has not brought pressure on writers to attack Solzhenitsyn since it

25X1

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-2-

realizes they would strongly resist. Oddly enough, Polish Writers' Union President Iwaszkiewicz and top party politburo member Szlachetko played reverse roles at one recent discussion, with the former attacking Solzhenitsyn as a third-rate writer and the latter saying he wasn't so sure. In any case, most Polish intellectuals appear to regard Solzhenitsyn as an inspired writer of great courage, but they are not about to risk their own reputations by saying so. They may justify themselves with the thought that silence itself contains a message.

25X1

Moscow Calls, Warsaw Answers

Foreign Minister Olszowski, who arrived in Moscow yesterday for talks with Gromyko, is the highest-ranking Polish visitor to the Soviet capital since Gierek himself visited in mid-December. As with Gierek, Olszowski's trip was sudden and previously unannounced. Thus far, there has been no hint as to Olszowski's mission, but the checklist of possible discussion topics includes: the energy crisis, an international Communist party conference, the force reduction talks, CEMA integration, Polish economic adjustments, Warsaw-Bonn relations, Polish-Vatican talks, and the Polish role in the Mideast and Vietnam peacekeeping forces. It remains to be seen whether Warsaw had anything to account for on one of these, or any other topic.

25X1

EAST GERMANY

Support for West Berlin Strikers Spurned

The East German regime is trying to make a show of solidarity with the striking members of the Public Services and Transport Workers Union (OETV) in West Berlin. The regime-controlled East German trade union federation (FDGB) has announced that it will close down the S-Bahn (elevated railway) for the duration of the OETV strike. The OETV, however, does not want help from the East. It issued a statement saying it would dissociate itself from the support of the S-Bahn employees as long as they are "denied the elementary democratic right to strike."

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL